

## DEXTER SLAIN BY A MADMAN?

That Is One Theory of Assassination of Millionaire Advanced by Lawyer Badger as Slayer Is Hunted.

MURDERER, WHO IS KNOWN, MAY HAVE DEFENSE READY.

Attorney Thinks He May Seek to Prove Insanity—Sheriff Believes Action a Lure for Rich Landowner.

MALONE, N. Y., Sept. 24.—Search through the forest and mountainside for the suspected murderer of Orlando P. Dexter was resumed at daylight by Sheriff Steenborge and his posse. When the searchers went out to-day they were provisioned for several days and will remain on the trail, stalking the murderer until he is brought in.

Sheriff Steenborge and Mr. Cantwell, who, though a lawyer, is an experienced woodsman, made the significant announcement that they would remain out with their posse until the murderer was brought in. They have no hesitation in naming the man upon whom their suspicion rests and the three companions who are known to have been with him for several days before the murder.

Not at His Home.

Yesterday the searchers made a detour and circled through the woods around his house, which lies in the depths of the forest in the Blue Mountain district about twelve miles from the Dexter cottage and over the St. Lawrence County line. It was learned at the man's house that he had not been about the place for nearly a week.

After establishing this much the searchers returned to Santa Clara and held counsel over night. To-day Sheriff Steenborge found that the brace of bloodhounds brought there were useless, as the trail was too old for them to take up.

He secured instead several St. Regis Indians and with the assistance of four of the most experienced guides in the North Woods, he will endeavor to follow the trail of the murderer after he left the Dexter estate.

Mr. Badger has advanced the theory that the assassin was either insane or had taken shrewd precautions for several days before the murder to establish the theory that he was insane.

His theory is based on stories told him by servants and employees of the Dexter estate. The lights seen about the house by Lucy Kelly, the servant, had been preceded on previous nights by waving lights and wild maniacal cries. It may be that the person under suspicion, a morose individual, brooded over his fancied grievance against Mr. Dexter until his mania took a homicidal turn.

To Lure Dexter.

Sheriff Steenborge's conclusion is that the assassin had shrewdly calculated that by uttering wild cries and waving lights in the vicinity of the house he might have lured Mr. Dexter out to investigate. As no one would have gone out into the darkness without a light, his victim would have afforded an excellent target and the darkness of the forest would have facilitated escape after the victim was shot down.

J. P. Farmer, the Santa Clara constable, who was quick to suspect the man for whom the authorities are now hunting, is making a single-handed search of the forest and is bent on obtaining the \$5,000 reward. He was in the forest all day yesterday. Last night he came into Santa Clara, got a fresh team of horses and started off on a fresh trail. He refused to tell the sheriff anything of his plans. "I'm after the right man and the \$5,000 reward," was all he said as he drove off into the mountains.

Bullets Fired at Rockefeller's.

Another peculiar feature of the tragedy is that a few days before Mr. Dexter's assassination a bullet was fired at the game warden's lodge on the estate of William Rockefeller, which adjoins Mr. Dexter's property. Most of the guides and game warden on the Rockefeller estate sleep at the lodge since their cottages, spread over the 150-mile tract, were destroyed by fire last spring. The men noticed the strange lights and heard the wild cries which were observed around Mr. Dexter's place, and after the bullet was fired at the house they took it as a warning of danger, especially as it was known that the feeling among many of the woodsmen toward Mr. Rockefeller was bitter and likely to break out into violence because his case against Leona, a woodsman, for poaching, is to be called for trial here next week.

The result of the warning was to increase the guard in the immediate vicinity of Mr. Rockefeller's home.

FAILED TO KILL, SHOT SELF.

Massachusetts Man Tried to Kill His Wife and Son-in-Law, KILLED WEST TOWNSEND, Mass., Sept. 24.—In a fit of temporary insanity to-day Charles Vaughn, of Mystic, tried to kill his wife and son-in-law, and failing sent a bullet through his own head, dying instantly.

The affair took place at the Blackett farm, to which Mr. and Mrs. Vaughn came from Mystic some time ago to visit their daughter, Mrs. Brackett.

## FAT MEN WHO WILL HELP NOMINEE FOR ASSEMBLY IN MONMOUTH COUNTY



WILLIAM LEFFERSON.

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